

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in this application. Claim 1 has been cancelled. Claims 9-11 have been added.

The Office Action dated May 19, 2004, has been received and carefully reviewed. Each issue raised in that Office Action is addressed below.

PAPERS SUBMITTED

Applicant thanks the examiner for acknowledging receipt of the priority document and IDS filed August 20, 2001. An IDS was also filed on April 27, 2001, which has not been acknowledged by the examiner. It is respectfully requested that the examiner acknowledge that the April 27, 2001, IDS was considered by returning an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 submitted therewith.

SPECIFICATION

A number of typographical errors were noted upon a further review of the specification. These are addressed by the above amendment.

The examiner requested that the references to copending applications in the specification be updated. The specification does not refer to any co-pending patent applications.

The examiner objected to the title as being insufficiently definite. The title has been amended to better describe the present invention.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claims 2-6 are objected to because claim 6 depends on claim 4 while intervening dependent claim 5 depends on claim 2. The examiner cites MPEP 608.01(n) in support of this objection. Applicant notes that the language of MPEP 608.01(n) is permissive ("should") rather than mandatory ("must"). While the cited section provides good guidance for claim drafting, it is respectfully submitted that the claim reordering required by the examiner is not mandatory. Indeed, MPEP 608.01(n) provides that "in general, applicant's sequence will not be changed." Furthermore, it is not clear how claim numbers can be amended under current amendment practice without otherwise amending the claims. For these reasons, this objection is respectfully traversed.

35 U.S.C. 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

Claim 1 is objected to because the language "to be circulated internally or output externally" is stated to be indefinite. By the above amendment, claim 1 has been cancelled, and the limitations of claim 1 have been added to claim 2. The examiner's Section 112, second paragraph rejections of claim 1

were taken into account when amending claim 2. The remaining Section 112, second paragraph issues are also addressed by the above amendment. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-8 as amended more fully comply with 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Onozaki. By the above amendment, claim 1 has been cancelled.

Claims 2-8 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. By the above amendment, claim 2 has been rewritten to include the limitations of claim 1 and to address the Section 112, second paragraph issues identified by the examiner.

New claim 9 is also submitted to be allowable over the prior art. Claim 9 requires, *inter alia*, a data driven type information processing apparatus that includes 1) an input/output control circuit controlling whether a data packet is to be circulated inside an information processing apparatus or output to an external host and 2) a data packet erasing circuit erasing a data packet stored in at least one pipeline register and outputting other data packets to the external host. It is respectfully submitted that an information processing apparatus

as required by this claim is not shown or suggested by the prior art, and that claim 9 and its dependent claims 10 and 11 are allowable.

Conclusion

Each issue raised in the Office Action dated May 19, 2004, has been addressed, and it believed that claims 2-11 are now in condition for allowance. Wherefore, reconsideration and allowance of claims 2-8 and examination and allowance of claims 9-11 is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Scott Wakeman (Reg. No. 37,750) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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